Practice SAQs

Prompt 1: Enlightenment Philosophies and Political Change

Historical Context: The Enlightenment was an 18th-century intellectual movement that championed logic, reason, and individual rights over traditional religious and monarchical authority. These ideas provided the "seeds" for global revolutions.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE Enlightenment philosopher and describe their core political idea.
- **Part B:** Explain how that idea directly influenced the formation of the United States government.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE way Enlightenment thinkers bypassed government or church censorship to spread their ideas.

Prompt 2: The Industrial Revolution in Great Britain

Historical Context: The Industrial Revolution was a shift from hand-made production to machine-based manufacturing. Great Britain was the first to industrialize due to its abundant natural resources, such as coal and iron, and a government that protected private property.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE geographical or economic reason why the Industrial Revolution began in Great Britain.
- **Part B:** Explain how mechanization changed the production of textiles in the 18th century.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE environmental or social effect of rapid urbanization during the Industrial Revolution.

Prompt 3: Non-Western Responses to Imperialism

Historical Context: As Western powers used their industrial advantage to conquer territory, non-Western states had to decide whether to adopt Western methods or resist them. Japan and China took very different paths in the 19th century.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE specific reform implemented during the Meiji Restoration in Japan.
- **Part B:** Explain ONE reason why the Japanese Meiji Restoration was more successful than the Chinese Self-Strengthening Movement.

- **Part C:** Explain the outcome of the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895) regarding regional power in East Asia.

Prompt 4: Economic Systems: Capitalism vs. Marxism

Historical Context: Adam Smith codified capitalism, emphasizing the "Invisible Hand" of self-interest and free markets. In response to the inequalities of industrial life, Karl Marx proposed a system where private property was abolished.

- **Part A:** Describe ONE core feature of Adam Smith’s free-market capitalist theory.
- **Part B:** Describe ONE core critique of capitalism offered by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE way a 19th-century government implemented "socialist policies" to appease the working class.

Prompt 5: Causes and Nature of World War I

Historical Context: World War I (1914–1918) was the first "industrial war," utilizing machine guns, tanks, and chemical weapons. It was caused by long-term tensions including militarism, alliances, imperialism, and nationalism (MAIN).

- **Part A:** Identify and explain ONE long-term cause of World War I.
- **Part B:** Explain how the concept of "Total War" affected civilian populations on the home front.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE way the Treaty of Versailles led to political or economic instability in Germany after the war.

Prompt 6: The Cold War and Global Conflict

Historical Context: The Cold War (1947–1991) was an indirect struggle between the capitalist United States and the communist Soviet Union. Because of "mutually assured destruction," the two powers fought through "proxy wars" in other nations.

- **Part A:** Describe the U.S. policy of "Containment" as articulated in the Truman Doctrine.
- **Part B:** Explain how ONE proxy war (e.g., Korea, Vietnam, or Afghanistan) reflected the global struggle between capitalism and communism.

- **Part C:** Explain ONE way the Marshall Plan helped prevent the spread of communism in Western Europe.

Prompt 7: Decolonization and Independence Movements

Historical Context: After World War II, weakened European empires began to lose their colonies. Leaders used both peaceful protest and armed struggle to achieve self-determination.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE method used by Mahatma Gandhi to achieve Indian independence.
- **Part B:** Explain ONE reason why European empires were unable to maintain their colonies after 1945.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE challenge faced by newly independent states regarding post-colonial borders.

Prompt 8: 20th-Century Science and the "Age of Anxiety"

Historical Context: In the early 1900s, new scientific discoveries shattered the "Positivist" view that the universe was simple and masterable. Thinkers like Einstein and Planck introduced concepts of randomness and relativity.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE scientific discovery made by Albert Einstein and explain how it changed the understanding of time or space.
- **Part B:** Explain how Quantum Mechanics challenged the 19th-century belief in universal laws.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE way 20th-century communication technology (e.g., the Internet or cell phones) reduced geographic distance.

Prompt 9: Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression

Historical Context: The 1929 stock market crash triggered a global depression characterized by mass unemployment and bank failures. This led many governments to move away from "laissez-faire" policies.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE economic cause of the Great Depression.
- **Part B:** Explain the concept of "Keynesian Economics" and how it differed from traditional capitalism.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE specific way a government (such as the U.S. or Germany) intervened in the economy to address the depression.

Prompt 10: The Rise of Totalitarianism

Historical Context: In the 1920s and 30s, totalitarian regimes rose in the USSR, Germany, and Italy. These governments maintained total control through propaganda, secret police, and the elimination of political rivals.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE characteristic of a totalitarian regime.
- **Part B:** Explain how Joseph Stalin used "agricultural collectivization" or "purges" to consolidate power.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE way Adolf Hitler used the humiliation of the Treaty of Versailles to gain popular support.

Prompt 11: The Second Industrial Revolution

Historical Context: The Second Industrial Revolution (1870–1914) focused on electricity, petroleum, and chemicals, with Germany and the U.S. taking the lead. It introduced new methods of mass production.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE technological difference between the First and Second Industrial Revolutions.
- **Part B:** Explain how the use of "interchangeable parts" or "mechanization" increased factory efficiency.
- **Part C:** Explain how the expansion of railroads impacted the development of industrial or financial cities.

Prompt 12: Globalization and the Knowledge Economy

Historical Context: Late 20th-century globalization connected world economies through trade agreements and digital technology. This led to a shift toward "knowledge economies" in developed nations.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE international trade organization or agreement formed in the late 20th century.
- **Part B:** Explain the difference between a "knowledge economy" and a "manufacturing economy".
- **Part C:** Explain ONE criticism of globalization regarding labor exploitation or environmental damage.

Prompt 13: Resistance to Imperialism in the 19th Century

Historical Context: Imperialism was often met with fierce resistance, sometimes inspired by religious or prophetic visions known as

"millenarianism". Examples include uprisings in China, Africa, and the Americas.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE religiously-inspired rebellion against an imperial power.
- **Part B:** Explain the goal of the "Boxer Rebellion" in China.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE way Native Americans used the "Ghost Dance" to resist U.S. expansion.

Prompt 14: Modern Feminism and Social Change

Historical Context: Women’s status shifted as they entered the workforce during world wars and gained the right to vote. The 20th century saw the rise of "Second-Wave Feminism".

- **Part A:** Identify ONE 18th-century writer who advocated for women's equality.
- **Part B:** Explain how the Industrial Revolution changed family dynamics for the middle class.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE technological or medical advancement (e.g., birth control or household appliances) that contributed to the feminist movement.

Prompt 15: The Impact of the Columbian Exchange

Historical Context: The Columbian Exchange involved the transfer of crops, animals, and diseases between the Americas and Afro-Eurasia. This had long-term effects on global money supplies and populations.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE crop or resource from the Americas that boosted the European money supply.
- **Part B:** Explain how the influx of silver from the Americas led to economic changes in Europe or Asia.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE way new agricultural techniques (like enclosure or crop rotation) led to population growth in the 18th century.

Prompt 16: Modern Environmental and Health Challenges

Historical Context: While medical advances increased lifespans, industrialization and globalization also created new environmental and health crises.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE medical advancement of the 20th century that increased the human lifespan.
- **Part B:** Explain how the "Green Revolution" increased the global food supply.
- **Part C:** Identify ONE new disease that emerged or became more widespread in the 20th century due to longer lifespans or lifestyle changes.

Prompt 17: Nationalism and Revolutions in Latin America

Historical Context: In the 19th century, nationalism—the tendency to identify by race, culture, and language—fueled revolutions in South America against Spanish rule.

- **Part A:** Identify ONE leader of the Latin American revolutions.
- **Part B:** Explain ONE Enlightenment ideal that inspired Creole leaders to break from Spain.
- **Part C:** Explain the significance of the "Jamaica Letter" in the context of decolonization.

Prompt 18: China Under Mao and Deng

Historical Context: After the 1949 Communist Revolution, China followed a Marxist-Stalinist model before shifting toward market reforms under Deng Xiaoping.

- **Part A:** Describe the goal of Mao Zedong’s "Great Leap Forward".
- **Part B:** Explain how Deng Xiaoping’s economic policies differed from those of Mao Zedong.
- **Part C:** Explain the significance of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests regarding political reform in China.

Prompt 19: Migration and Labor in the 19th Century

Historical Context: The demand for cheap labor in industrializing nations led to massive migrations of people, often resulting in the formation of ethnic enclaves and a rise in "nativism".

- **Part A:** Identify ONE group of people who migrated in the 19th century and the reason for their movement.
- **Part B:** Define the term "Ethnic Enclave" and provide ONE example.

- **Part C:** Explain the goal of the "Chinese Exclusion Act" or the "White Australia Movement".

Prompt 20: The United Nations and Human Rights

Historical Context: Following the failure of the League of Nations and the horrors of WWII, the United Nations was established in 1945 to maintain peace and promote human rights.

- **Part A:** Identify the 1948 document that guaranteed individual liberties to all world citizens.
- **Part B:** Explain ONE way the United Nations was structured more effectively than the League of Nations.
- **Part C:** Explain ONE instance where the UN or an international movement challenged systematic oppression (e.g., the U.S. Civil Rights Movement or the Anti-Apartheid movement).